



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/521
4 October 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 73

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 45/74 A)

1. The General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, adopted resolutions 45/74 A to G of 11 December 1990 concerning the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (A/45/84, A/45/306 and A/45/576). By resolution 45/74 A, the General Assembly, inter alia, demanded that Israel desist forthwith from a number of policies and practices mentioned in the resolution.
2. On 25 March 1991, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.
3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.
4. In paragraph 19 of resolution 45/74 A the Assembly reiterated its call upon all States and upon international organizations, including the specialized agencies, not to recognize any changes carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, in the occupied territories and to avoid actions, including those in the field of aid, that might be used by Israel in its pursuit of the policies of annexation and colonization or any of the other policies and practices referred to in the resolution.

5. By notes verbales and letters dated 25 March 1991, the Secretary-General drew the attention of all States and of international organizations, including the specialized agencies, to paragraph 19 of the resolution.

6. In paragraph 24 (d) of resolution 45/74 A the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure the widest circulation of the reports of the Special Committee and of information regarding its activities and findings, by all means available, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and, where necessary, to reprint those reports of the Special Committee which are no longer available.

7. In response to paragraph 24 (d) of resolution 45/74 A, the Department of Public Information undertook the following activities:

(a) The Department of Public Information provided press coverage of all meetings of relevant United Nations bodies, including the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. Press releases were also issued on regional seminars and symposia organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, including those held at Madrid and Montreal. In these seminars and symposia, the human rights of Palestinians were discussed.

(b) Additional press releases were issued containing the texts of the Secretary-General's statements relating to the question of Palestine and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

(c) DPI continued to distribute its publications, including a revised version of the booklet The United Nations and the Question of Palestine, in Arabic, English, French, German and Spanish; the booklet For the Rights of Palestinians; Work of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; the booklet entitled Human Rights for the Palestinians; and The Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories. A total of 13,703 of these publications, in Arabic, English, French, German, and Spanish were distributed.

(d) The "World Chronicle" produced a video entitled "Visit of the General Assembly President to the Occupied Territories", in which Dr. Guido de Marco, Deputy Prime Minister of Malta and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Justice, and President of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, stresses the human dimension of the question of Palestine and the need to solve the problem through United Nations efforts. The Audio Visual Promotion and Distribution Unit of the Department of Public Information disseminated world wide to its film and video libraries and to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) the video "About the UN: Palestine".

(e) Fifty-nine radio programmes of varying lengths on the question of Palestine and related topics were produced between 1 January and 30 June 1991.

(f) The Department co-sponsored two national encounters for journalists on the question of Palestine at Brussels (22 May) and Bonn (24 May). Those two events were hosted at Brussels in cooperation with the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation and with the support of the Commission of the European Communities, and at Bonn in cooperation with the German Association for the United Nations. The theme of the two encounters was the protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation. Two Palestinian and two Israeli panelists addressed that theme in each of the two cities with brief opening remarks, followed by a substantive dialogue between the four panelists and about 40 senior media representatives who had been invited to participate. The two Palestinian panelists were Nasser Al-Kidwa, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, and Sa'ab Erekat, Professor of Political Science at Al-Najah University, Nablus, West Bank. The two Israeli panelists were Yael Dayan, Labour Party activist and author, and Avigdor Feldman, an attorney who co-founded the Israeli human rights documentation centre, Betzelem, and who had appeared in a number of landmark civil rights cases in Israel. The two encounters were moderated by the Chief of the Anti-Apartheid, Decolonization and Palestine Programmes Section of DPI.

(g) The Department held a briefing at Headquarters for representatives of non-governmental organizations relating to the question of Palestine, entitled: "A UN Perspective on Palestinian Rights".
